

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

March 19, 1971

MEMORANDUM OF BRIEFING

PRESENT: Henry A. Kissinger
Colonel Kennedy
David R. Young (Note Taker)

SUBJECT: Laos (Lamson 719)
Cambodia (Toan Thang) 01/71

BRIEFER: Lt. Colonel Martin

DATE: March 15, 1971

LAOS

Martin: There are no major movements to report.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Kissinger: Are they on 914 or not?

Martin: Yes they are, but the sensor readings which showed on 914 were probably from some of our traffic because they had air dropped in some vehicles in that area.

Martin then showed Dr. Kissinger the charts comparing 1970 with 1971 in input tonnage and throughput tonnage. There were 13,000 tons throughput in 1970 and only 2,800 tons in 1971 during the same period.

Kissinger: The CIA report, however, shows that there is the largest amount ever in southern Laos. We have got to get together all the intelligence analysts. (He directed Kennedy to move on this and set up a meeting.)

Martin: One bit of good news is that there have been nine small unit contacts and about 20 enemy KIA. The majority were in the South Vietnamese Marine area. Also five tanks have been knocked out just east of Tchepone, 70 bodies killed by air strikes were discovered,

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and there were a number of caches discovered with 10 tons of rice, 20 tons of rice, etc. Some of these had been blown up by US long-range artillery. The NVA 323rd Division Headquarters has moved in just north of Base Area 611. They normally operate out of South Vietnam but they have now moved over and they will probably direct the operations against the ARVN as they move south from Route 9. ARVN strength had gone up by 150 soldiers in the last 24 hours.

CAMBODIA

Martin: A B-52 strike has been laid on the 95th NVA regiment in Cambodia. We have also laid down two B-52 strikes in the Chup Plantation. The ARVN is now starting its sweep through and they have discovered some enemy bodies. I should point out that when Minh briefed General Knowles, he skirted quite quickly over the situation in Snoul. They are still just sitting there.

Kissinger: What about the use of the air cavalry?

Martin: I am not sure on that, I will check.

Kissinger: It certainly looks like it's bogged down.

Martin: We can't judge the operation too quickly until we see whether they make contact.

End of Briefing.

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